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English 10

Cultural Literacy

This year we will spend a considerable amount of time focusing upon cultural literacy—the people, events and terminology one should to be familiar with in order to be literate in a specific culture, in this case American culture.

For this assignment, you need to select an aspect of cultural literacy to examine and present. Is there a person in history you would like to research? Is there a work of literature or a film that you believe is integral to American culture? Is there a date or event that is so critical to one’s understanding of America that it must be discussed and shared? Is there a piece of artwork you can point to and explain its significance in the larger American cultural landscape?

Focus upon cultural literacy (meaning that, if you are discussing a book, your assignment isn’t merely a book review—you must fully describe the role of the book in American culture and why an understanding of/familiarity with this book is important). The same goes for a celebrity—if you want to examine Caitlyn Jenner, for instance, you should not write a biography of her, but a paper that clarifies her importance in American culture in 2018.

**The product**: This is writing and speaking assignment. Therefore, the product is two fold—a written paper and a short presentation for the class.

Your paper should:

* Be 1 ½ to 2 pages in length in Times New Roman or Arial, font size 12 (not longer—remember that longer is not better; practice being concise!)
* Be double spaced
* Include a title
* Answer the question with appropriate detail and analysis
* Be structurally and grammatically sound
* Include 1 source cited on a Works Cited page. Citation questions should be directed to noodletools, of course.

Your presentation should:

* Examine why exactly your artifact/date/art/person is critical to an understanding of American culture
* Include 1 or 2 slides which help your audience make sense of the information (you may show a video)
* Be rehearsed and professional
* Be between 3-5 minutes in length

**Dates to bookmark:**

Wednesday, September 26: Begin the assignment in class

Friday, September 28: Workshop/Thinking Time

Wednesday, October 10: 10 people present to the class

Tuesday, October 16: **10 people present to the class AND papers are due**

Monday, October 22: 8 people present to the class

**Remember**: All of this work is happening while we are reading *The Catcher in the Rye*. It’s up to you to stay on top of your due dates and deadlines.